

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the following paragraph as follows.

[0004] There is provided, in a system having an application and a plurality of boards, where the application is implemented by several software processes operating with the assistance of middleware between said boards and the application, and where said plurality of boards are adaptable to communicate pursuant to a standard that contemplates a controller dedicated therewith and a communications channel between the boards, a method for facilitating the removal of removing a subject board from the system while the application is running (a "hotswap"), comprising the steps of: a) connecting the boards with a an additional communications channel in addition to that of the standard; b) preventing any new transactions on the subject board; c) notifying relevant other boards; d) waiting for appropriate responses from relevant other boards; and e) waiting for subject board to quiesce; where steps b) to e) are effected using said additional communications channel.

Please insert two new paragraphs as follows, after paragraph [0004]:

[0004.1] There is also provided, in a system having an application and a plurality of boards, where the application is implemented by several software processes operating with the assistance of middleware between said boards and the application, and where said plurality of boards are adaptable to communicate pursuant to a standard that contemplates a controller dedicated therewith and a communications channel between said boards, a method for facilitating the removal of a subject board from the system while the application is running (a "hotswap"), comprising the steps of:

- (a) connecting the boards with an additional communications channel;
- (b) alerting subject board of the intention to remove it;

- (c) subject board reporting its alerted state to middleware;
- (d) preventing new transactions on all appropriate boards in accordance with the application;
- (e) informing the application through middleware;
- (f) waiting for the application to respond to middleware;
- (g) waiting for appropriate boards to report that they are quiescent;
- (h) informing all parts of the system (other than the subject board) that need to know, that the subject board is no longer present; and
- (i) returning control to the subject board to signal that extraction of the subject board can be safely performed.

[0004.2] There is also provided, in a system having an application and a plurality of boards, where the application is implemented by several software processes, and where said plurality of boards are adaptable to communicate pursuant to a standard that contemplates a controller dedicated therewith and a communications channel between said boards, a method for facilitating the removal of a subject board from the system while the application is running (a "hotswap"), comprising the steps of:

- (a) connecting the boards with an additional communications channel;
- (b) alerting subject board of the intention to remove it;
- (c) subject board reporting its alerted state to the application;
- (d) preventing new transactions on all appropriate boards in accordance with the application;
- (e) informing the application;
- (f) waiting for the application to respond;
- (g) waiting for appropriate boards to report that they are quiescent;
- (h) informing all parts of the system (other than the subject board) that need to know, that the subject board is no longer present; and
- (i) returning control to the subject board to signal that extraction of the subject board can be safely performed.